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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/813,826 | 03/22/2001 | Shunji Hyoda | SPO-592 | 3082 |
| 35777 | 7590 | 08/30/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| SHERMAN & ASSOCIATES | | | COPPINS, JANET L | |
| 415 NORTH ALFRED STREET | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | 1626 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Second Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/813,826

Examiner

Janet L. Coppins

Applicant(s)

HYODA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney on July 12, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 14-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTION

1. Claims 1-9 and 14-17 were previously allowed in the Notice of Allowability of November 1, 2005.
2. In the Supplemental Notice of Allowability of July 5, 2006, the dependency of original claims 15, 16, and 17 was changed via Examiner's Amendment to claim 1. However, as discussed in the telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney, Robert Haines, the dependency remains incorrect since claims 15-17 refer to the process of claim 14.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Haines, Reg. No. 35,533 on July 12, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

- (a) Please change the dependency of original claims 15, 16, and 17 to claim 14.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-9 and 14-17, in newly amended form, are allowable, as renumbered claims 1-13. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This invention relates to a novel method for the preparation of 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazolediammonium salts, which are useful as foaming agents or gas-generating agents for airbags, previously allowed in the Notice of Allowability of November 1, 2005. The method

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involves the following steps: the 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazolediammonium salts (BHT-2NH₃) are prepared by dissolving oxaldiimidic acid dihydrazide (OAH) (obtained by the reaction of hydrated hydrazide with dicyan in an aqueous solution of a weakly acidic compound), drop wise adding an aqueous solution of sodium nitrite thereto to form an azide thereof and to effect the cyclization reaction by heating, adding an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide to the reaction product to convert it into a 5,5'-bi-1H-tetrazoledisodium salt (BHT-2Na), reacting it with an aqueous solution of ammonium chloride, and recovering the formed ammonium salt as sparingly soluble crystals. Similar processes are known in the art, however they are not as efficient, result in lower yields, and also utilize sodium azide, which is not cost-effective. After a thorough search, the closest of prior art, DE 952,811, was found to teach a similar process, however the German document teaches an extra step of isolating and condensing the product, and also teaches the use of sodium azide, and results in low yield, which distinguishes this process from the instant invention. Therefore the prior art does not anticipate or fairly suggest the instant claimed process of preparation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquiry

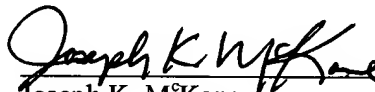
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet L. Coppins whose telephone number is 571.272.0680. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on 571.272.0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Janet L. Coppins
August 16, 2006


Joseph K. McKane,
SPE, Art Unit 1626